

## Priority of Services to Veterans

**Policy:** Section 4215 of Public Law 107-288, 2002, known as the Jobs for Veterans Act, creates a priority of service for veterans (or spouse of eligible veterans) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for participation in the Department of Labor training programs. Per the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 10-09, local areas are required to ensure that all eligible veteran workers are given priority over eligible non-veterans for all available services. The Merced Workforce Investment Board (WIB) has previously issued policy that implements statutory provisions requiring priority of service for intensive and training services to low income and public assistance individuals. This section 4215 requires program eligible veterans shall be provided priority over eligible non-veterans for all available services.

Under the Jobs for Veterans Act, “covered person” is defined as:

- A veteran (is an individual who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable, which may include National Guard or Reserve personnel), or
- The spouse of any of the following individuals:
  - Any veteran who died of a service-connected disability;
  - Any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who, at the time of application for assistance under this section, is listed, pursuant to section 556 of title 38 and regulations and has been under, by the Secretary concerned in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days:
    - missing in action,
    - captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or
    - forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power;
  - Any veteran who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability; or
  - Any veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.

A Military Spouse is an individual who is married to an active duty service member including National Guard or Reserve personnel on active duty.

Eligibility for the WIA Title I Youth program is not affected by the veterans' priority.

### **Procedure:**

Local Workforce Investment Areas are required to ensure that all eligible veterans, or “any covered persons,” are given “Priority of Service” over non-veterans in Department of Labor training programs. Priority of Service as defined for this procedure means: the right to take precedence over non-veterans

in obtaining services. The Customer Use Agreement will notice veterans or “any covered person” that they have Priority of Service.

To qualify for Priority of Service, documentation must be provided with one of the following:

- Military ID card (retired)
- DD214
- Dependent military ID card (retired)

In addition, Box 65 through 70 on the Workforce Investment Act Application form must be completed to verify veteran/spouse status.

- Branch of service in armed forces,
- Dates of service,
- Discharge date and status (Honorable/Dishonorable).

When a veteran has been identified, they will receive a Veterans ID card that states, Worknet “Now Serving You.” This card will allow a veteran or any covered person to receive “Priority of Service.”

To receive Priority of Service assistance, a veteran will need to show their Worknet Veterans ID card to staff for priority service in scheduling for the following:

- Orientations,
- Workshops,
- Career Assessment,
- Computer Lab.

During staffing for Intensive and Training Services, priority will be given to veterans or any covered person by use of a point system calculated with the Assessment Tally Sheet.

**Responsible Official:** Director

**Review Date:** July 1, 2010

**Revised Date:** July 1, 2010